State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDICARE'S 2012 OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEGINS OCTOBER 15 Beneficiaries encouraged to review plans now

BOISE ID (October 3, 2011) – The Idaho Department of Insurance reminds consumers that Medicare open enrollment begins October 15. Medicare beneficiaries should begin to review plan benefit and cost information through *Medicare Plan Finder* on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website, www.Medicare.gov. Open enrollment runs through December 7.

Department Director Bill Deal says, "With open enrollment coming early this year, consumers with Medicare should spend time in the next few weeks reviewing their current coverage and comparing the options available for next year."

Medicare Plan Finder allows beneficiaries, their families, trusted representatives and senior program advocates to look at all local drug and health plan options available for the 2012 benefit year.

Idahoans who have questions about open enrollment are encouraged to contact the Department's Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) by calling 334-4350 in the Boise area or 800-247-4422 toll-free statewide.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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